PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

WILLITS ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION TRUST
FORMER ABEX CORPORATION, REMCO HYDRAULICS FACILITY
934 South Main Street
Willits, California

PROPOSED PILOT STUDY
TO REDUCE HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM AND REMEDIATE VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND TOTAL PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS IN GROUNDWATER

Subject: Negative Declaration prepared in accordance with Title 14, Section 21080(c) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15070 and 15071 of the California Code of Regulations.

Location: Former Remco Hydraulics, 934 South Main Street, Willits, California (See Attachment A).

Proponent: Willits Environmental Remediation Trust, 5856 Granite Hills Drive, Granite Bay, CA 95746

Lead Agency: Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Project Description: The proposed project is a pilot study designed to reduce hexavalent chromium and remediate volatile organic compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater. The purpose of the pilot study is to assess the effectiveness of in-situ (in place) reduction treatment under the existing site conditions. The pilot test program is designed to generate site-specific data concerning the effectiveness of chromium remediation using two different reducing processes, and to provide information regarding the feasibility of a full-scale implementation of the in-situ reduction technology. In addition, a secondary evaluation of the effect of the in-situ reduction technology on the observed concentrations of volatile organic compounds and petroleum hydrocarbons in the pilot test area will be performed.

The project being considered consists of two small-scale pilot studies designed to reduce chromium in groundwater. Both studies are located inside the building (Figure 1). The first pilot study is located at and around the former horizontal chrome plating tanks. The size of this pilot study is 90 feet by 45 feet. Thirteen points within this 90 feet by 45-foot area will be drilled and calcium polysulfide solution will be injected directly to groundwater. Following the injection of calcium polysulfide, water will be injected to disperse the calcium polysulfide. Four temporary groundwater-monitoring wells will be drilled in this pilot study area and sampled on a routine basis to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot study.

The second pilot study is located northeast of the former horizontal chrome plating area (Figure 1). This pilot study area is approximately 67.5 feet by 60 feet. Twelve points within this 67.5 feet by 60-foot area will be drilled and molasses will be injected directly to groundwater. Following the injection of molasses, water will be injected to disperse the molasses. Four temporary groundwater-monitoring wells will be drilled in the pilot study area and be sampled on a routine bases to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot study. Three additional temporary wells are located near the pilot study areas and will be sampled on a routine basis.

The injection of calcium polysulfide and molasses into groundwater is intended to react with the hexavalent chromium and reduce the hexavalent chromium to trivalent chromium, a less toxic form of chromium. Trivalent chromium adsorbs onto soil particles and the proponent has determined that the in-situ reduction of hexavalent chromium will not result in a significant increase of background trivalent chromium concentrations in soil.

The project proponent must comply with regulatory and permitting requirements which includes California State Water Resources Control Board Resolutions 92-49 and 68-16, Title 27, Division 2, California Code of Regulations and any local, state and federal permitting requirements.

Finding:

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (Regional Water Board) prepared this Negative Declaration based on the attached Initial Study. The Regional Water Board finds no substantial evidence that there will be any significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed project.